

Region North

Lawyer seeks open session

By JUNE PETERSON
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WINSTED — Community attorney Charlene LaVoie has asked the state Freedom of Information Commission to prohibit an executive session scheduled for Thursday's school board meeting.

If called, the executive session will deal with a legal opinion about the restructuring of The Gilbert School from the Board of Education's attorney, Thomas N. Sullivan of Hartford.

LaVoie filed her appeal yesterday. FOI has to schedule a hearing within 72 hours of the notice. FOI has tentatively set up a hear-

ing date for Thursday at 10 a.m., LaVoie said. Under the FOI act, LaVoie has asked the commission to intervene in the proceedings Thursday.

"This is kind of like a temporary restraining order," LaVoie said.

She stressed she had contacted Board of Education Chairman Thomas Condon about discussing the restructuring opinion in open session, eliminating the need for the FOI hearing. As of yesterday afternoon, she was unable to reach Condon.

"I really think this is something that can be worked out short of

going to a hearing on Thursday," LaVoie said. "There's a very good chance it will be resolved without going to the commission."

Winsted resident Judy Pavlak contacted LaVoie about bringing the issue to open session. Pavlak is leading the opposition to the plan to restructure the school's governing body. Pavlak opposes the restructuring plan on the grounds that it does not give the public equal representation on the board. The school, which is the high school for Winsted and Hartland students, was founded as a private school but now is funded almost entirely through tax del-